

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

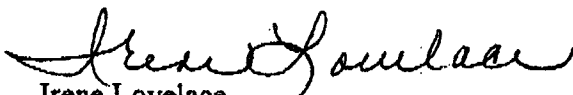
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to ask that your office see fit to end this case at the federal level. Although I do not agree with every move Microsoft has made in the past, I do not think that further litigation fits the crime. Although the settlement reached by your office in November calls for more concessions than Microsoft may have wanted, it has agreed to the conditions in an effort to move this issue along. Nine states have approved the agreement, and Microsoft is negotiating with the remaining states to reach a conclusion. I do not see what benefit will be gained from further federal action, and frankly I feel that three years has been long enough.

Microsoft has granted broad new rights to computer makers and software engineers. It has more or less opened its Windows operating system for the competition to use as a springboard for launching their own programs that compete with those programs already included within Windows. I ask if these concessions would have been demanded with such ferocity if Microsoft were involved in a more traditional and understandable industry. Would we mandate that McDonalds had to offer Burger King's Whopper to all customers that asked for it? Would Coke offer samples of Pepsi in each can? More importantly, would we allow it?

I hope this issue will be behind us as soon as possible. I do not completely agree with the settlement, but if allows us to move on, then I will give it my full endorsement. Please use your position to allow the IT industry and the economy to grow again.

Sincerely,



Irene Lovelace
Executive Assistant